



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/231,114	01/14/1999	HIROYUKI FUNAHASHI	102580	3398

25944 7590 04/08/2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. BOX 19928
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER

KANG, PAUL H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2142

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/231,114	01/14/1999	HIROYUKI FUNAHASHI	102580	3398

25944 7590 02/19/2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. BOX 19928
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER

KANG, PAUL H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2142

DATE MAILED: 02/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/231,114

Applicant(s)

FUNAHASHI, HIROYUKI

Examiner

Paul H Kang

Art Unit

2142

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-22, 24-25, 27-29, 30-31 and 33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 23,26,29 and 32 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 January 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 14.
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Interview Summary

Application No.

09/231,114

Applicant(s)

FUNAHASHI, HIROYUKI

Examiner

Paul H Kang

Art Unit

2142

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Paul H Kang, USPTO. (3) _____.

(2) George Simion, Reg. No. 47,089. (4) _____.

Date of Interview: 10 February 2003.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☐ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: Claims 1-33.

Identification of prior art discussed: None.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: In order to further the prosecution of this patent application, the examiner indicated possible allowable subject matter and invited the applicant to amend the pending independent claims to incorporate the allowable subject matter (newly added claims 23, 26, 29, 32 are objected to). The applicant declined the invitation to incorporate the allowable subject matter into the independent claims.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

i) ☒ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview (if box is checked).

Unless the paragraph above has been checked, THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


Examiner's signature, if required

Art Unit: 2142

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-22, 24-25, 27-²⁸~~29~~, 30-31 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Venkatraman et al., US Pat. No. 6,170,007 B1 in view of Danknick et al., US Pat. No. 6,021,429.

3. As to claims 1, 3, 8, 11, 15, 16, 17 and 18, Venkatraman teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Venkatraman teaches a network system comprising a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network; and a controller that controls the terminals via the network, the controller comprising selecting means for selecting and controlling the plurality of terminals based on a user's designation, the terminals including printers as well as recording media (Venkatraman, col. 2, lines 16-55 and col. 3, line 9-65).

However, Venkatraman does not explicitly teach at least two of the terminals each adapted to obtain information on the other terminals therefrom, requesting means for requesting the selected terminal to transmit, to the controller, information on all the interconnected terminals; wherein the selected terminal transmits a request to the other interconnected terminal to obtain the information on the other terminals, receives the

Art Unit: 2142

information from the other terminals, and forwards to the controller the information from the other terminals and information on the selected terminal.

In the same field of endeavor, Danknick teaches a method and apparatus for communicating with a network peripheral and which automatically obtains and maintains a list of device information. Danknick teaches requesting means for requesting the selected terminal to transmit, to the controller, information on all the interconnected terminals. Additionally, the system administrator, i.e. the user, may manually change or update device addresses to be accessed (the list manager is requested to transmit to the controller device information; Danknick, col. 1, line 42 – col. 67 and col. 8, lines 29-64); wherein the selected terminal transmits a request to the other interconnected terminal to obtain the information on the other terminals (the list manager stores information regarding other devices in the network which it then transmits to the controller; Danknick, col. 11, line 1-67), receives the information from the other terminals, and forwards to the controller the information from the other terminals and information on the selected terminal (Danknick, col. 1, line 42 – col. 3, line 63 and col. 9, line 7 – col. 11, line 35).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the multiple device information obtaining means as taught by Danknick into the system of Venkatraman for the purpose of increasing the device control and status monitoring efficiency.

4. As to claims 2 and 12, Venkatraman-Danknick teach the system wherein the information on each of the other terminals includes link information for identifying the

Art Unit: 2142

each terminal on the network (Danknick, col. 1, line 42 – col. 3, line 63).

5. As to claims 4 and 19, Venkatraman-Danknick teach the system further comprising an interface interconnecting one terminal and the network; the controller further including an interface information obtaining means for obtaining information on the interface therefrom when the one terminal transmits the information on all the terminals to the controller (Danknick, col. 1, line 42 – col. 3, line 63 and col. 9, line 7 – col. 11, line 35).

6. As to claims 5 and 20, Venkatraman-Danknick teach a setting changing means for changing the setting or settings of the terminal transmitting the information to the controller, or of the interface (Venkatraman, col. 3, lines 9-65).

7. As to claims 6, 9 and 13, Venkatraman-Danknick teach a memory for storing the information on all the terminals (Danknick, col. 1, line 42 – col. 3, line 63 and col. 9, line 7 – col. 11, line 35).

8. As to claims 7, 10, 14 and 21, Venkatraman-Danknick teach a system wherein the interconnected terminals is a printer or a scanner (Danknick, col. 1, line 42 – col. 3, line 63 and col. 9, line 7 – col. 11, line 35).

9. As to claims 22, 25, 28 and 31, Venkatraman-Danknick teach the system as claimed, wherein the selected terminal judges whether or not each of the other terminals

Art Unit: 2142

is made from a same maker as the selected terminal (See Danknick, col. 7, line 57 – col. 8, line 12).

10. As to claims 24, 27, 30 and 33, Venkatraman-Danknick teach the system as claimed, wherein a list of the information collected on the selected terminal is displayed on a display of the controller, and, when a terminal on the network is specified on the display, information on the specified terminal is displayed on the display (the CPUTIL interfaces with the remote devices to display the device information; See Danknick, col. 8, lines 30-48).

11. Claims 23, 26, 29 and 32 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

12. Applicant's arguments filed November 26, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Applicant argued in substance that:

A) the prior art of record does not teach the newly added limitation of the selecting one of the terminals “based on a user’s designation.”

As to point A, Venkatraman-Danknick teach the system as claimed wherein the system administrator, i.e. the user, may manually change or update device addresses to be accessed (Danknick, col. 8, lines 29-64).

Art Unit: 2142

B) the prior art of record does not teach "the selected terminal transmits a request to the other interconnected terminals to obtain the information on the other terminals, and receives the information from the other terminals... In Danknick, the list manager does not forward a request to the other terminals. Rather, the list manager just retains information which has been automatically forwarded from the other terminals."

As to point B, the list manager of Venkatraman-Danknick transmits a message to other terminals identifying itself as the list manager. The terminals on the network await this message prior to transmitting status information. The terminals, upon receiving the message from the list manager, respond to the message by transmitting to the list manager various information. Further, the list manager provides access to this information via the CPUTIL program to provide and display to the system administrator the information obtained.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the

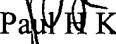
Art Unit: 2142

advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul H Kang whose telephone number is (703) 308-6123. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 hour flex. First Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Powell can be reached on (703) 305-9703. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.


Paul H Kang
Examiner
Art Unit 2142

KENNETH R. COULTER
PRIMARY EXAMINER


February 10, 2003